

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 EUR-10 DRC-01 NEA-05

ARA-10 SPC-01 PRS-01 /080 W  
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P R 080845Z NOV 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 958

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T PEKING 1356

LIMDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR CH AS

SUBJECT: WHITLAM'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CHOU EN-LAI

REF: STATE 219191/1

SUMMARY. AUSTRALIANS VERY PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF WHITLAM VISIT, FEELING EXCHANGE OF MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS.

AUSTRALIANS FOUND CHOU VERY POSITIVE ON RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES AND CONFIDENT NEW POLICY ON DUAL NATIONALITY WOULD HELP IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS. CHOU HELD FORTH ON ALLENDE'S DOWNFALL AND SAID IT WAS MATTER HE INTENDED TO DISCUSS DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. AUSTRALIAN DCM ROSS COTTRILL, WHO PARTICIPATED IN PM WHITLAM'S CONVERSATIONS WITH CHOU EN-LAI, PROVIDED USLO OFFICER NOVEMBER 7 WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF VISIT SUPPLEMENTING THOSE CONTAINED IN TELEGRAM PASSED TO DEPARTMENT (REFTEL). COTTRILL FOUND CHOU LIVELY AND  
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ALERT AND OBSERVED NO SIGNS OF HIS USING ANY MEDICATION

DURING MEETINGS. HE SAID CHOU USED NO NOTES FOR MEETINGS AND HAD TENDENCY TO RAMBLE. ONCE HE WARMED TO A TOPIC HE WAS EXPANSIVE, AND ON ONE OCCASION WHITLAM HAD TO BREAK OFF THE CONVERSATION AFTER FOUR HOURS TO ATTEND ANOTHER FUNCTION.

2. SINO-AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL - OVERALL, AUSTRALIANS FEEL VISIT SUCCEEDED BEYOND THEIR EXPECTATIONS. COTTRILL SAID PARTY WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY SUGAR AGREEMENT. THEY INFORMED CHINESE IN ADVANCE THEY WOULD RAISE SUBJECT, BUT HAD NOT EXPECTED TO REACH AGREEMENT DURING WHITLAM VISIT FOR WHAT COTTRILL DESCRIBED AS "A HANDSOME DEAL." AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL MINISTERIAL VISITS WAS, IN AUSTRALIAN VIEW, MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF VISIT. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS SHOULD NOT BE FIXED TO SPECIFIC TIMETABLE, BUT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED AS OFTEN AS BOTH SIDES FELT NECESSARY. AGREEMENT ON VISITS TO AUSTRALIA BY RELATIVES OF OVERSEAS CHINESE WAS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM FOR WHITLAM, AND CHINESE HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE THAT QUESTION WOULD BE RAISED. CHOU IMMEDIATELY AGREED, HOWEVER, APPARENTLY FEELING THIS WAS RELATIVELY SIMPLE WAY OF SHOWING CONCRETE PROGRESS AND BALANCING SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH CANADIANS. COTTRILL SAID QUESTION OF CONSULAR RELATIONS WAS NOT RAISED, BUT OPINED THAT CHINESE WILL BEFORE LONG ASK FOR CONSULATES IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

3. SOUTHEAST ASIA - AS REFLECTED REFTEL, AUSTRALIANS FOUND CHOU VERY POSITIVE ON QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. INDOCHINA DID NOT FIGURE PROMINELY IN DISCUSSIONS AND WAS RAISED ONLY AFTER WHITLAM REFERRED TO PROBLEM. CHOU APPEARED TO FEEL THAT PLANNED PRC MEASURES TO END DUAL NATIONALITY QUESTION FOR OVERSEAS CHINESE (REFTEL) WOULD BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES. OVERSEAS CHINESE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AS PROBLEM WITH NORTH VIET-NAM WHERE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT SAID TO BE FREQUENT. HE WAS SO POSITIVE ON IMPACT OF NEW DUAL NATIONALITY POLICY ON PROSPECTS FOR RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE THAT FONMIN CHI PENG-FEI COMMENTED TO HIM IN CHINESE THAT HIS PROGNOSIS MIGHT BE OVEROPTIMISTIC.

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4. BANGLADESH - ALTHOUGH BANGLADESH DISCUSSED AT LENGTH, AUSTRALIANS FOUND NO CHANGE IN PRC POSITION. WHITLAM RAISED THE ISSUE AT REQUEST OF BANGLADESH, AND COTTRILL NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAD DONE SO PREVIOUSLY WITH MFA WITH SAME RESULT.

5. CHILE - CHOU HELD FORTH AT SOME LENGTH ON SUBJECT OF

ALLENDE'S DOWNFALL, INDICATING THAT MANY OF HIS TROUBLES WERE OF HIS OWN MAKING. HE CLAIMED ALLENDE WAS SURROUNDED BY PUTSCHISTS AND "GUEVARAISTS" WHO HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIALISM. CHOU SAID THIS WAS A SUBJECT HE INTENDED TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT HERE. BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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